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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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FOUNDED IN 1913

W·E·Cox and Company

International Probate Research

PROBATE RESEARCH AND GENEALOGY

Information of Especial Value to Missing Estate Beneficiaries and Others.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF
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W. C. COX AND COMPANY
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MEMBER: *Chicago Association of Commerce and Illinois State Chamber of Commerce.*

WALTER C. COX

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W. C. Cox and Company was organized in 1913 to provide a responsible and specialized service in probate research and genealogy to locate missing heirs and to perform related functions. The company has since become international in reputation and scope.

WHY PROBATE GENEALOGY

THOUSANDS of estates are unclaimed each year because the whereabouts or identities of the heirs or legatees are unknown. These estates become *orphan fortunes,* and the heirs or legatees, however deserving or in need, remain unaware of the wealth that is subject to claim by them.

The reason for this in a majority of cases is regrettable, but understandable. Families drift apart. Relatives lose trace of each other. One dies, perhaps without issue, a will, or clear clues as to next of kin. Sometimes legatees named in wills have disappeared.

In many cases the real heirs or legatees to these *orphan fortunes* are locatable. Search conducted expertly, even on the slightest clues, often locates and identifies them beyond legal question.* *W. C. Cox and Company makes such searches at its own risk and expense and has prevented many such estates from becoming public property, or from being recovered by wrongful claimants.*

> ONE RESULT OF OUR WORK: *"I received my share in my brother's estate today. How you found me after I had been away 20 years and lived in 12 different states is a masterpiece. My family will have a new home."*—From one of thousands of similar letters in our files.

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* W. C. Cox and Company operates only to locate heirs to estates that are known to exist. The company does not search for estates for persons who, without evidence, believe they may be beneficiaries of legacies or fortunes.

FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSES

VERY few executors, administrators, attorneys, or others interested in the administration of estates are experienced in making these difficult and specialized researches, or have the time to do so. Thus, our services are extremely valuable in many ways, which include:

INTESTATE ESTATES:

(a) Locating and identifying heirs where deceased left no known kindred.

(b) Discovering heirs of nearer degree of kindred than the known claimants.

(c) Finding heirs whose names and relationships are indicated, but who are not aware of the estates they can claim.

TESTATE ESTATES:

(a) Locating legatees and devisees whose addresses are unknown.

(b) Identifying heirs where legacies and devises are ineffective or improper.

(c) Finding heirs of deceased legatees or devisees or owners of vested interests.

HEIRSHIP:

(a) Securing proofs of heirship (documentary and otherwise) when available evidence on the decedent's family history is not sufficient to support a Decree of Court.

(b) Investigating claims to inheritance where there is suspicion as to the legality of

Views of General Offices . . .

claimed heirship, and the possible existence of other heirs.

BANK DEPOSITS:

Finding persons entitled to dormant bank accounts.

TRUST ESTATES:

(a) Locating persons entitled to take upon termination of trusts.

(b) Finding of missing or unknown beneficiaries of trust funds.

REAL ESTATE:

Discovering missing grantees or unknown owners of unclaimed real estate, including mine and oil leases.

AWARDS:

Locating persons entitled to unclaimed moneys paid into court under judgments and decrees.

INSURANCE:

Finding missing beneficiaries of life insurance policies, or owners of endowment policies.

W. C. Cox and Company

GENERAL:

Furnishing genealogical data or other facts required in matters of heirship or legal identification.

COMMENDATIONS FROM ATTORNEYS

"I greatly appreciate your cooperation in this (estate) matter, and assure you that if any similar case arises in which your firm may be of help, I shall be only too happy to call on you."—***From a New York City attorney.***

"There is no question that had you not interested yourself in this case, my clients would have received nothing from the estate, and the fact that you fought the matter through to a finish against many obstacles, convinces me that you more than earned your fee."—***From a Wisconsin attorney.***

"We have never done business with anyone who came nearer to doing exactly what they promised than yourselves. You have done what you undertook to do, and have handled the recovery of the estate skillfully and promptly. You have done better than we had hoped would be possible."—***From a Tennessee law firm.***

Views of the

Walter C. Cox

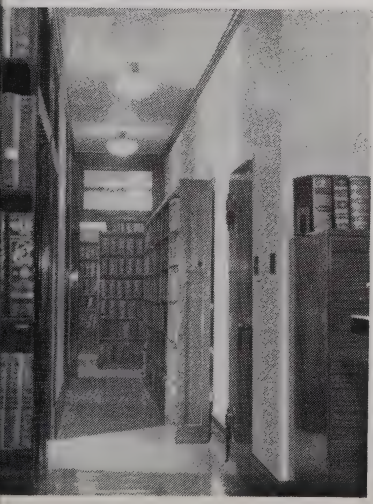
Genealogical

Reference

Library

Containing More Than

17,000 Volumes



W. C. Cox and Company is well equipped with personnel, resources, and long experience to perform the services in which it specializes.

Mr. Cox, who heads the organization, is internationally and favorably known as one of the most capable of research genealogists, having spent about 40 years in his vocation, solving cases totaling millions of dollars.

TRAINED PERSONNEL

Executives and personnel of the organization consist of highly trained and experienced specialists in general estate and genealogical research matters as well as in tracing heirs to unclaimed fortunes. They include attorneys who are well conversant with the differing laws of descent, distribution and probate procedures in the various domestic and foreign jurisdictions.

SCOPE OF OPERATIONS

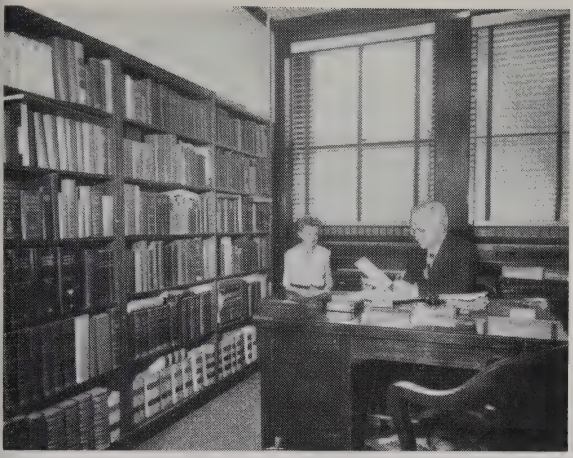
The company is frequently called upon to locate unknown or missing American heirs to estates in all parts of the world, as well as foreign heirs to American estates.

We cooperate with responsible genealogists, attorneys, and other specialists in the U. S. and foreign countries, being especially well represented in Europe and the British Isles, where are planted the roots of most American family trees.

Our operations extend around the world and have included cases calling for research from Alaska to South Africa.

RECORDS AND REFERENCES

The company's records and references, indispensable to such research, include a genealogical library containing more than 17,000 volumes, one



Investigating Department

of the most complete of its kind. American and European family histories and records in this vast collection go back many generations.

Additionally, our vaults and files include data on thousands of estates and family histories which we have developed over the years.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The financial responsibility of the company is high and ample. Over the years, the reputation of its officers and operatives has been unimpeachable. References from banks, attorneys, and heirs will be supplied on request.

ADVANCES ALL EXPENSES

Searches for unknown or missing heirs or legatees are made on a contingent basis. The company risks its own money in each case on the chances of finding those rightfully entitled to the estate. Such persons being found, the matter of compensation is negotiated directly with them on a reasonable percentage basis. In many of our

Estates Department

cases our expenses have amounted to thousands of dollars, but beneficiaries are never asked to risk any of their own funds.

CENTRAL LOCATION

The Home Office of the company is near the center of population of the U. S. and Canada, within a day's ride of the majority of larger cities of those countries.

"May we express our appreciation of the splendid cooperation W. C. Cox and Company has given us in this estate matter. We will be very glad to reciprocate whenever you call on us."—***From the Attorney General of a prominent state.***

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"We wish to extend to W. C. Cox and Company our thanks for your patience and for your services in locating the heirs of this estate."—***From a Hawaiian Trust Company.***

●

"In reply to our letter to the Minister Plenipotentiary we have received a communication from the Secretary for External Affairs recommending your firm. We trust you will undertake to try to trace the missing heirs."—***From a South African Solicitor.***

FROM THOSE WHO BENEFIT

THE records and files of W. C. Cox and Company are replete with letters similar to the following from heirs and other beneficiaries of our searches:

"When a firm is willing to put up all expenses and not ask the heirs to an estate for a penny until the inheritances to which they were unknowingly entitled are secured . . . well, the check for $3,332.75 and the one for $465.25 came today! If at any time anyone wants to know about your honesty and ability, please give him our names and addresses."—***From a New Brunswick beneficiary.***

●

"Had it not been for you, I undoubtedly would not have known about the estate and my rights in the case. I sincerely hope you will be as successful in other cases as in this one."—***From a Maine beneficiary.***

●

"We thank you for finding us, to enable us to claim our inheritance; also for likewise locating our brother John after he had not been heard from for more than 50 years, and we had given up all idea of ever knowing his whereabouts."—***From a St. Louis beneficiary.***

●

"I thank you for finding me, and for bringing me the money due me which was a complete surprise."—***From a Chicago beneficiary.***

●

"Our thanks for the honest and businesslike way in which you brought about payment of our share of the estate. Without you, we would not have known anything about the money."—***From a Brisbane, Australia, beneficiary.***

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"Mr. Cox came to me as a stranger with a similar proposition to yours. Upon investigation, my bank found that he was a man of high moral character and thoroughly reliable. He handled my legacy in a most satisfactory manner and I cannot recommend him too highly."—***An estate beneficiary's answer to an inquiry.***

Part of Investigating Staff

"We can very sincerely recommend this firm (W. C. Cox and Company) in estate matters."—***A Chicago National Bank and Trust Company answers an inquiry.***

"Not only would I have been unaware of my claim against this estate if it had not been for your advice; it is improbable that I would have had the means to press the claim."—***From a California beneficiary.***

"I wish to express my appreciation for the splendid, efficient manner in which your company handled the case."—***From a Pennsylvania beneficiary.***

"The final step in settlement of my uncle's estate has been taken. It is unfortunate when relatives lose contact with each other. We had not known of his whereabouts for 45 years."—***From an Illinois beneficiary.***

A WORD FROM WALTER C. COX

THE purpose of probate research and genealogy as performed by W. C. Cox and Company, to locate missing heirs and other beneficiaries, and as explained in the foregoing, is to supply an indispensable service.

The company and its principals are cognizant of their high responsibilities in each and every case. Custom and ethics are followed unwaveringly.

To those so concerned who learn of my company and its functions through this booklet, we pledge loyal and diligent service.

Walter C. Cox

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